

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

It is desirable that an intermediate layer 13 for enhancing the adhesion and the corrosion resistance be formed between the oxide film 11a of the substrate and the electrically conductive thin film 12. The formation of the intermediate layer 13 on the oxide film 11a of the substrate is desirable for increasing adhesion and corrosion resistance because the provision of the electrically conductive thin film ~~12 alone~~ 12 alone will result in insufficient corrosion resistance and insufficient adhesion. The provision of the intermediate layer 13 alone will also result in insufficient corrosion resistance and insufficient adhesion. Therefore, it is also desirable to form the electrically conductive thin film 12 on the intermediate layer.

Please replace paragraph [0055] with the following amended paragraph:

(1) Electrical Conductivity Test Condition

The electrical conductivity test was performed by a contact resistance test method illustrated in FIG. 7. The electrical contact resistance was measured before and after the corrosion ~~resistance test~~ resistance test. The test pieces used for the resistance measurement were the same as the test pieces 1 of Condition 1 to Condition 5 and the test pieces 2 of Condition 1 to Condition 4 in the aforementioned corrosion resistance test, in which the substrate 11 (having an oxide film 11a on a surface) was surface-treated. Each test piece was sandwiched with an intervening diffusion cloth (a carbon cloth identical to the one incorporated as a diffusion layer in a fuel cell) between polar plates. After the planar contact pressure was set at 20 kgf/cm², which is close to the planar contact pressure of a fuel cell, and the current was set at 1 A, the voltage V between the two polar plates was measured. Then, a contact resistance was determined as in the following equation:

$$\text{Resistance } R = V/I \text{ (I = 1 A)}$$